

October 20, 1998

Ms. Retha Dixon  
Docket Manager  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20463

Dear Ms. Dixon:

RE: Complaint from Nebraska Democratic Party State Chair, Ann Boyle

My name is Barbara Vopnford. I received a copy of a letter and a complaint sent to you from the above-named party, in regard to the Senate campaign waged by Attorney General Don Stenberg.

Mr. Stenberg is running for re-election for Attorney General for the State of Nebraska. His Democratic opponent has been attempting to make donations to his Senate campaign an issue. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few misconceptions.

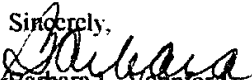
Ms. Boyle refers to my ex-husband's company, Thousand Adventures, Inc., which has been forced into bankruptcy. Mr. Stenberg's opponent has been, in my opinion, slandering him, when she states that he failed to follow-up consumer complaints in regard to the now-bankrupt company. She also infers that he failed to do his job because of campaign contributions to his Senate race. Nothing could be further from the truth.

First of all, Mr. Stenberg never solicited campaign contributions from us. My ex-husband and myself and our family have supported conservatives running for office for many years. Dave's older children, who worked for his company, also made campaign contributions. His older children earned in excess of            per year, and were perfectly capable of affording their own maximum contribution. Additionally, our youngest son, Leif, made his contribution from his own bank account. We were told several years prior to this election that underage children are permitted to make campaign contributions as long as they have their own separate bank account and that the contribution comes from their own money in their own account. That is exactly what happened. I am sorry if his opponent believes that a twelve-year old cannot make that decision himself; however, he did, and when it was handled within the legal parameters, there should be no issue.

Finally, Mr. Stenberg's office did, in fact, send consumer complaints on to our company. When I was handling this correspondence myself, I know that the answers were sent in a timely fashion. I would assume that once the legal department was handling that type of correspondence, that the mail-flow continued to be handled in a timely fashion. The problems that the company faced which ultimately resulted in bankruptcy can in no way be attributed to any action, or for that matter, non-action, by the office of Mr. Stenberg.

Thank you for allowing me to clear up this gross misconception.

Sincerely,

  
Barbara L. Vopnford  
Box 471  
Blair, Nebraska 68008